

## Life of Hiding

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# End of a Top Spy

By Peter Wilms  
Toronto Star

HITLER, with pompous disregard for the realities of the situation, declared: "This is the biggest bluff pulled since the days of Genghis Khan. Who is responsible for this appalling rubbish?"

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THE "FACELESS" former Nazi general who has led the West's spy network in Europe for 20 years retires next year to a life of hiding. The general, Reinhard Gehlen, will have a double guard day and night for the rest of his life.

Gehlen is a man with a price on his head. East Germany, alone, has offered \$250,000 for him dead or alive. Gehlen made a deal with the United States near the end of the war. He traded his own safety for Russian secrets.

He became the man without a face — the chief of a vast West German spy network with headquarters behind a high electrified fence in Munich's Pullach Forest. He was last photographed just after the war and was a man whom virtually nobody knew.

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GEHLEN JOINED the West in an astonishing way. The door of an American patrol's chalet opened to reveal a gaunt, scruffy German with large, protruding ears.

He held under his arm a large bundle of papers. "I am General Reinhard Gehlen," he told the patrol leader.

But the American was not interested. With the war in Europe all but over, generals were not worth a pinch of salt. The allies were after the bigger fish — Himmler's security men and S.S. Black Guards.

Still, Gehlen insisted on his right to be heard. He had, he said, documents in which the Americans would be very interested. Finally he was deposited with an intelligence officer.

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HE SHOWED the officer the documents, and the American gasped, for they contained a run down on Russian strength — plans and weapons it would have taken the United States years to compile.

Gehlen was rushed to Washington, where he made a deal which ensured his own personal salvation from war prosecution and at the same time struck fear and hatred into the Communist bloc.

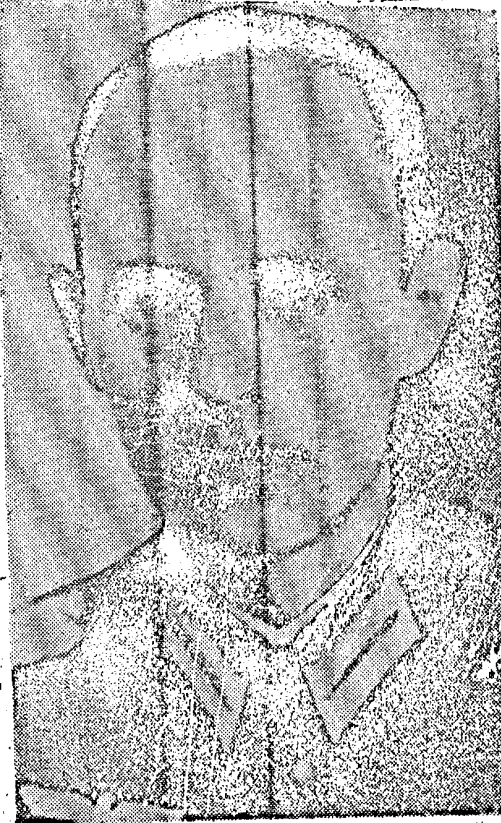
Now, after more than 20 years as the anchor-man for American intelligence in Europe, he is retiring. But he cannot be forgotten. During the war he ran a highly secret department known as Foreign Armies-East.

He was a trusted confidant of Hitler, until he told Hitler that it would be futile to attack Russia, whose strength he had accurately assessed from his agents in the area.

It was Gehlen who was responsible, and Gehlen was right. At least it might have protracted Hitler's war and given him a chance to recoup his massive losses on other fronts.

But the Fuehrer went his way and General Gehlen went his — straight to the Americans. Having handed over his documents and revealed the position as it was, Gehlen made three demands:

- The staff of his unit should be directly under his orders; they should work as a purely German organization on a fixed budget financed by the Americans.
- Until Germany regained her sovereignty and formed a government of her own, he, Gehlen, should be regarded as a trustee of



GEHLEN IN NAZI UNIFORM  
Last photograph of mysterious general

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